



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHITERIVER MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON IN DOUBLE STABBING

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on April 16, 2004, ERIC GASS, 1/30/80, of Whiteriver, Arizona, was sentenced to 78 months in prison by United States District Judge David Campbell, in Phoenix, Arizona. Upon his release from prison, GASS will be placed on three years supervised release under the supervision of the United States Probation Office. GASS entered a plea of guilty on January 7, 2004 to two counts of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(6).

On June 19, 2003, GASS, a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, was in the Whiteriver area in violation of his supervised release conditions which prohibited his return to the Whiteriver reservation without the permission of the United States Probation Office. An argument broke out and GASS took his knife and stabbed one individual in the face, arm and back resulting in a punctured kidney. The other victim was stabbed by GASS in the stomach area causing a portion of the victim's intestines to fall out which required emergency surgery. Unfortunately, the victim who was stabbed in the stomach has not fully recovered. As a result of

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his injuries, he was unable to finish his schooling and is no longer able to participate in sports. In the future, this same victim will be unable to work in a field that requires physical labor.

Gass has a prior history of assaults on other Whiteriver residents. GASS was previously sentenced to prison for assaulting two other Whiteriver residents. In 1997 GASS assaulted a 14 year old girl with a tire iron. He was subsequently sent back to prison in 2002 for stabbing a Whiteriver man and had been on supervised release for only a couple of months when this double stabbing occurred. District Court Judge Campbell also sentenced GASS to an additional 9 months to run consecutively to the 78 month sentence for violating his supervised release.

The investigation in this case was conducted by White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department and the Fort Apache Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-920-PCT-DGC
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